Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. Don't forget to add clwaldron@secucc.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

News from the Conference and Recap from the Annual Meeting

Greetings! Thanks to all who made this year's Annual Meeting special! This newsletter is divided into two parts. The first are typical announcements and articles about the Conference which are found down the left side of the email. A recap of the Annual Meeting is found down the right column.

We're looking to improve our flow of information within the Conference. If you're interested in serving as part of an editorial group that will gather Good News! and help distribute it, please contact us by responding to this email.

Also, we are excited to share announcements and news from your church through our newsletter, website, and Facebook. If you have any announcements, please get them to us by the 20th of the month. Information can also go up on the Conference website. Please expect up to a week turn around before articles are posted. Everyone loves pictures - so make sure that your article or announcement comes with a high resolution picture (or three or four).

Blessings and peace,

Generosity Corner

OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION and other UCC SPECIAL OFFERINGS

At the June Annual Meeting we recognized the 14 churches who were "5 for 5" in 2013. Would your church like to be recognized at our next Annual Meeting?
Here's how: give to OCWM Basic Support during 2014 and receive the four special offerings that occur throughout the UCC year.
In June we received **Strengthen the Church,** our first special offering of the year. But it's not too late to take an offering for Strengthen the Church. Then your church can be on the road to being "5 for 5". Click here to visit ucc.org for more information.

Also, this is a reminder that all churches should have sent their OCWM first half payments.

At annual meeting, each church was given an informational packet on TESTIMONY!, the $1 million national fundraising effort for new UCC churches.
Your generosity of $100 gifts has been streaming in the past couple weeks. THANK YOU. We have raised several hundreds of dollars towards our $8,000 goal. But we're not there yet.

Can you as an individual or as a UCC church give just $100.00 towards this very worthy national fundraising priority? Click on the DONATE button or send your check to:

Southeast Conference
Memo Line: Testimony!
1330 West Peachtree Street Suite 350

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the staff at Piedmont College for their extravagant hospitality! We especially want to acknowledge Rev. Ashley Cleere, Dr. James Mellichamp, Stephanie Bogart, Bill Lloyd, Angie Mixon, and Laura DeLorenzo.

Deep appreciation also to Decatur UCC who was the host congregation. They provided volunteers, hosted the Friday night concert, put together the worship services, provided special music, and generally made sure all the bases were covered. Special thanks to Rev. Glenna Shepherd and Jodi Graham.

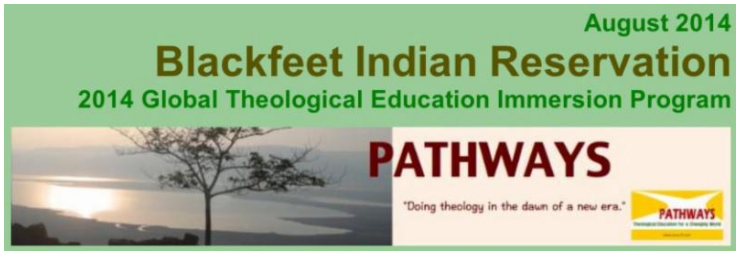
And a big thank you to the Southeast Conference Staff- Gerri Ryons-Hudson (Queen of the meeting), Debbie Spearman who coordinated workshops and exhibitors, Chris Lyman-Waldron who ran video and digital camera, and Sarah Kim for being the uber shopper and providing back-up where needed.

AUTHORIZED MINISTER'S RETREAT

We began with 20 folks gathered for the Authorized Ministers Retreat on Thursday. It was capably led with much fun, song, and deep discussion and sharing by Linda Jaramillo, Valerie Tutson, and Felix Villanueva.

Atlanta, GA 30309
We will publish the Donor List in a later issue of *Conference Connection*.

Debbie Spearman, Generosity Coordinator



PATHWAYS' 2014 Global Theological Education (GTE) Immersion trip is set to take place in the Blackfoot Nation in Montana on August 23-29. The twelve participants from Georgia, Tennessee, and Iowa will be exploring the Native American context and frame the theological question around the notions of deep symbols and eco-spirituality during this study trip. The United Church of Christ's Brown Fund has granted support for this year's immersion trip.

For more info on the GTE immersion program, please click here to visit the PATHWAYS website

AROUND the CONFERENCE

Dorinda Brodnax was ordained on July 6th at Community Congregational Church in Montgomery. Please join us in extending her congratulations!

PROJECT 66 16

Mike Stroud, director of the Project 66-16 history initiative of the Conference, was unable to present a workshop scheduled during the 2014 Annual Meeting due to a circumstance beyond his and the Conference's control. In

PIE/MID RETREAT

The Commission on Ministry hosted a retreat for Persons in Exploration and Members in Discernment on Friday morning prior to the beginning of the meeting. Many thanks to Kirk Lyman-Barner and Leslie Etheredge for their leadership. There were over 20 folks in attendance.

FRIDAY

Folks entering Swanson Hall were greeted with Good News! posters from local churches and exhibitors from local churches, international mission, and national UCC offices.

Friday's luncheon honored folks with significant ordination anniversaries, our MIDs, and those in the PATHWAYS program who have completed Level 2 coursework. A highlight of the luncheon was the presentation of a certificate to Lonnie King and Mrs. Althea Boone from Rush Memorial Congregational Church. The certificate was in recognition of the joint grant from the Southeast Conference and the Charles E Cobb Racial Justice Fund of national UCC Justice and Witness Ministries to support Rush Memorial's application as a State and Federal Designated Historical Site.

Throughout the day Linda, Valerie, and Felix led a storytelling process to help us all discover our history and story and share with one another. Ask your local church delegates and pastor about what they heard and shared. During dinner we heard June Boutwell deliver her State of the Conference address. Link to full text here.

lieu of that, he will give his presentation on the website, in two installments.
Click here for the first part

Please mark your calendar with the following events!

2014

October 3-4 *Alabama Tennessee Association Meeting First Congregational Birmingham AL*

October 6-8 *Retired Clergy Retreat for Southeast and Southern Conferences Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds, Blowing Rock NC*

November 7-8 *Emergence Retreat Clemson SC*

2015

June 11-13 *Pre-event and Southeast Conference Annual Meeting, Piedmont College, Demorest GA*

October 16-18 *Southern Regional Women's Conference, Sumatanga Retreat Center, Gallant AL*

2016

July 26-29 *National Youth Event Orlando FL*

Central UCC in Atlanta is taking a trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS the week of Sept 21-27. There are 10 spots still open. They would like to extend an invitation to individuals or groups from other UCC congregations who would want to join them. You can email Lacey Brown for more information by clicking here.

The day ended with worship and a sermon by Rev. Linda Jaramillo. We then adjourned to the outdoor amphitheater for a concert and ice cream social.

SATURDAY

Saturday began with the traditional Memorial Service in which churches honored those saints who have passed on in the past year.

Douglas Anders, Conference Minister in South Central Conference, then gave a keynote presentation helping us to all understand some realities of ministry in the Southern Region of the UCC which includes Southeast, South Central, Southern, and Florida Conferences.

We then adjourned to workshops and the Board of Directors had a brief meeting to prepare for the business meeting later in the day. Speakouts during lunch were informative, moving, and funny, as always.

The business meeting went well with new officers, Board members, and Committee Chairs elected. The Board had earlier approved all the members of Standing Committees. The full roster of those serving for the next year can be found by clicking here. The budget for the next year was approved, outgoing Board members

Emergence Retreat - November 7-9, 2014

The Emergence Retreat, created by Peace Congregational UCC, will be held at the beautiful Outdoor Lab in Clemson, South Carolina to bring GLBTQ young adults and their communities of faith together for education, open dialogue, spiritual growth and healing. Registration will open soon. Click here for the Emergence website.
Read the article about Emergence on the SECUCC website by clicking here.

Unity Rally Against Hatred - July 26, 3:30-5:30pm

Peace Congregational UCC would also like to invite others to participate in a rally responding to the presence of the KKK in SC. Celebrating that the state is "a diverse community in race, age, sexual orientations, and gender identities," they call others to stand up together to combat the ideals of the KKK by standing up for equality and a grassroots movement driven by love.
More information can be found on the Facebook invitation here.

Gateway to HOPE
Alabama Veterans Hope and Healing Coalition

GATEWAY TO HOPE:
Breaking the Stigma of Moral Injury

Many of us are aware of the work that is being done to address post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in our veterans and enlisted military. Recent research has shown that there is another critical component to the health and well-being of those who have served and are serving. That component is known as moral injury. Rev. Rita Nakashima Brock will keynote an event September 9-10 at First United Methodist Church, Montgomery Alabama sponsored by the Alabama Veterans Hope and Healing Coalition to address the concept of moral injury and what we can do in our faith communities and communities of caring to address this critical issue.

Click here for more information and registration

were honored and thanked, and all folks serving in a Conference capacity for the next year were installed.

We then adjourned to the installation service for June Boutwell where Felix Villanueva preached and Dr. James Mellichamp, President of Piedmont College, served as our organist. The music presented by Decatur UCC and the Annual Meeting Choir was wonderful. Piedmont College then graciously hosted a reception for June Boutwell and homeward prayers were spoken for all.

EVALUATIONS

We do want to thank all those who completed evaluations. We have read them all and your comments whether praise or critique have been shared with staff and Piedmont College. We do know that we needed to work harder on welcoming folks and making places and process more clear for everyone. We will have a chance to improve when we return to Piedmont College next year.

ANNUAL MEETING 2015
MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JUNE (11)12-13

The Board of Directors approved returning to Piedmont College on June 12-13, 2015. There will also be pre-Meeting activities on June 11. The Board has also authorized the appointment of an Annual Meeting Planning Task Force. If you would like to be a part of this group, please let the Conference office know of your interest. We are also seeking a hosting church or churches to provide volunteers, design worship, and help with the Planning Task Force. Let the Conference Office know if you are interested. By holding the event at Piedmont College, it allows smaller congregations that would not be able to host a meeting on their site to be the host congregation. This is also an opportunity for churches to host together and share the joy and burden and to be visible to our whole Conference.

Forward this issue

For More Information on Above Ads **>> Click the Links Below**

A. **SEC Offices** / B. **PATHWAYS** / C. **Capital Campaign**